

22 July 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I have been an outdoor enthusiast all my life, and one of the beauties of spending time in the wilderness is being in such a remote environment. Unfortunately being so out of touch is not a good thing when something goes wrong. I have been a part of volunteer search and rescue for the past 6 years and have seen how being in cell phone service has truly saved people's lives. Whether it be a broken ankle on a remote mountain hike, or a bad climbing accident in the North Cascades, when an injured person is able to call 911 as soon as they need to be rescued, lives can be saved.

One of the lessons I've learned during in my experiences with Wilderness Search and Rescue is that time is everything. When a group of backcountry skiers get caught in an avalanche, minutes can determine the difference between life and death, and waiting for family back home to call 911 after they realize their loved one has been gone for too long is not always soon enough.

When I hear about the potential from the new LightSquared 4G network, I can't help but think of the unfortunate souls whose bodies I have carried out of the wilderness simply because we were not dispatched soon enough. That's why hearing about the potential from the new LightSquared 4G network is so exciting to the outdoor community.

I write to ask that LightSquared be given every possible consideration for implementing its network. Telling people to carry their cell phones in the backcountry is now standard practice of wilderness training organizations, even though there is only a chance that you will be in service. If cell service could be guaranteed as long as a satellite can see you, lives would be saved.

Yours truly,

Yazan Fattaleh
Boulder, Colorado